## IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

23. (previously presented) A telephone answering device, comprising:

a digital answering machine;

a wireless piconet front end; and

a monitoring module to determine a presence of a monitored person within a monitored area, said monitoring module determining a presence of a user of said telephone answering device when a piconet device uniquely associated with said user is present in a piconet including said wireless piconet front end of said telephone answering device;

wherein said telephone answering device automatically answers an incoming call when said monitoring module determines that said user is not present, and allows additional rings when said user is present

24. (previously presented) The telephone answering device according to claim 23, further comprising:

a wireless piconet entrance/exit monitor in communication with said telephone answering device determining a presence of said user based on a physical movement of a personal wireless piconet identifying device worn by said user.

25. (previously presented) A method of automatically answering a telephone call, comprising:

searching for a presence of a user of a telephone answering device via a piconet communications device associated with said user's presence; automatically answering said telephone call if said user is not present; and

allowing said telephone call to continue to ring if said user is present as determined by a presence of said piconet communications device associated with said user's presence.

26. (previously presented) The method of automatically answering a telephone call according to claim 25, further comprising:

implementing said piconet communications device with jewelry worn by said user.

27. (previously presented) The method of automatically answering a telephone call according to claim 25, further comprising:

implementing said piconet communications device with a wallet or purse of said user.

28. (previously presented) Apparatus for automatically answering a telephone call, comprising:

means for searching for a presence of a user of a telephone answering device via a piconet communications device associated with said user's presence; means for automatically answering said telephone call if said user is not present; and

means of allowing said telephone call to continue to ring if said user is present as determined by a presence of said piconet communications device associated with said user's presence.

29.    (previously presented) The apparatus for automatically answering a telephone call according to claim 28, further comprising:

means for implementing said piconet communications device with jewelry worn by said user.

30.    (previously presented)The method of automatically answering a telephone call according to claim 28, further comprising:

means for implementing said piconet communications device with a wallet or purse of said user.